

**SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN
(PUBLIC PARTICIPATION)**

March 20, 2001

7:00 PM

Mayor Baines called the meeting to order.

Mayor Baines called for the Pledge of Allegiance, this function being led by Alderman Clancy.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Wihby, Gatsas, Levasseur, Sysyn, Clancy, Pinard, O'Neil, Lopez, Shea, Vaillancourt, Pariseau, Cashin, Hirschmann

Absent: Alderman Thibault

Mayor Baines advised that the purpose of the special meeting is to give residents of Manchester the opportunity to address the Board on items of concern affecting the community; that each person will be given only one opportunity to speak; that comments shall be limited to two minutes to allow all participants the opportunity to speak and any comments must be directed to the Chair.

Mayor Baines requested that any resident wishing to speak come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized, and give their comments.

Theresa Chabot, 106 Putnam Street, Manchester stated:

I believe this is the fourth meeting that I have come to and I believe this is the first time that I hear a silent prayer before a meeting, which gives me hope. You know all of us here are made in God's image. We are the temple of the Holy Spirit. What are we doing with our bodies? What kind of signal are we giving our children? How can we expect them to respect life if we don't ourselves? I went to that walk in Concord for Right for Life for the first time and I tell you that going by that house, talk about silent screams. I heard that somebody wrote about a Jewish doctor who used to do abortions and had no faith and when he decided to take pictures of when he did an abortion he could not believe it when he saw the face of that child being destroyed. It is time we stopped

playing God. It is time we respect life and all of you who do not talk against abortion are just as guilty as the one who does it. I believe in the power of prayer. I think my silence says it all.

Irene Robbie, 1046 Hayward Street, Manchester stated:

Before I went off on my vacation, I met with a group of seniors and their main concern was that it seems that the City was not excluding Singer Park, but they kept including an alternative which happened to be the Sears building before I left and there was some talk about the Maple Street building. Their question was why can't the City of Manchester, City Hall, the members who are running the City, why can't they be honest and up front with the seniors and tell them why you don't want the seniors to build a center at Singer Park. I took it upon myself to meet with a few Aldermen. Some of them I had to call on the phone. I didn't get to speak to as many as I would have liked due to problems with the weather, but none of these Aldermen could give me a straight answer. It seems like they didn't know and it was something new to them. Why didn't the City want the seniors to have Singer Park? They didn't know. Silly things like there are hobos down there or it is contaminated. The soccer field is now pile-driving down into the ground and if they can pile down into that ground, they can build a senior center. I am asking you...this is a big City. Why are you such small men that you can't come out and face the seniors and tell them what the problem is? You are always coming out with an alternative. This has been on my mind too much, Mayor. I cannot be quiet and be content. I have to get it out because the seniors are very, very upset. You always have some kind of an option. Now it is the place on Maple Street and I am not saying that I discount it, but they want an answer from you publicly and soon as to why you don't want them to have Singer Park. It is always we are going to have it tested. It has been tested. They are going to pile drive and if it is contaminated it is going to come up into the air. You are going to have the children running around the soccer field. We want an answer. We don't want options. So please we want an answer and we want it quickly and we want it from the City and we want it publicly. Am I understood? Thank you very much.

Richard Duckoff, 380 North Bay Street, Manchester stated:

I am here as an officer of the North End Neighborhood Association. I am here about the proposed or tentative plan for a change in the land at the corner of Bennington Street and North Bay Street into something that has been called at various times a sports field, not a soccer field but a field for soccer. I am here to urge that an end be put to the confusion in the neighborhood to statements that have been made that are lending themselves to more contention. I am asking, Mr. Mayor and I am recalling my conversation on Friday with you that it would be appropriate that there be a public forum, hopefully at Webster School. There are some people in the neighborhood who are elderly and couldn't easily

attend a meeting here at City Hall. A meeting at Webster School where all sides could lay out what the plans are and everybody could read from the same page and where questions could be asked. As I said, I am recalling my conversation with you on Friday and your statement that you would be in favor of that and that you would speak to Alderman Cashin and that you as I believe that a democracy that informs citizenry is the first road to a fair result. I want to make it clear that I don't have any position and the North End Neighborhood Association could easily be 100% for or 100% against at the same time whatever the plans are because there have been so many contradictions. The meeting that I attended in the City Solicitor's Office on Friday left everybody with a sense of tension and at the present time it is a lose-lose situation between the City and the neighborhood and I know that is not the preferred result. Thank you very much.

Jeff Kassel, 22 Appleton Street, Manchester stated:

I saw a headline in the paper today about the civic center. There is a new director there and what I didn't notice in the article was the shoveling of another \$1 million into the contingency fund for the civic center. Apparently, there was \$1 million appropriated. It has been assigned early and this kind of inspired me to promote an organization that I am going to be starting called CAINE. This is the telephone number. CANE stands for Citizens Against Nearly Everything Expensive and we are going to try to recruit candidates for Aldermen and School Board who are going to be responsive to the taxpayers. This is our money that is getting shoveled into these projects. Things that cost \$150 million and a school budget of \$120 million that is growing \$10 million a year is just not acceptable to people who have to foot the bill. This is the telephone number, 668-1979. You can call it 24-hours a day. These phones are being manned and we are going to try to recruit candidates. We would like to recruit candidates for quite a few of the posts that are going to up for election. I hope you will call. If you are interested in running for School Board or Aldermen or maybe even Mayor, call this number. We are going to try to organize. I could hold this up for another 30 seconds. I have another 30 seconds. Thank you.

Justin Martel, 80 Erskine Avenue, Manchester stated:

I was sitting over at A Little Taste of Seattle sipping on a latte and I saw in the paper that you need another \$100,000 for the Skate Park and I see that the contractor who was doing it got canned. I was thinking that it would be a good idea...I lived in Oregon for awhile and the community got involved with a skate park and got people involved in building the skate park. I don't know if there is any way that we could cut on the cost of that. The number that he gave. Maybe we could cut that \$100,000 by getting the skateboarders involved. I know a lot of people still think and I was out on Elm Street today trying to sell a couple of photos and a couple of older folks laid into the skateboard thing and I had to put them straight. They seem to think that we are a bunch of hoodlums so we need to

get this done. It was supposed to be in last year. I have been away for awhile. I worked with Mike Lopez and I thought that everything was pretty much there. There were a bunch of skateboarders involved with it and it is time to stop wasting time. If we need to donate our time, I will gather some skateboarders and we will build that nursing home and stuff too.

Mayor Baines replied it is not a nursing home. Let me set the record straight before you get in big trouble.

Mr. Martel stated I didn't mean any disrespect. Maybe there is something we can work out. I can give you my cell phone number if you need to call me to get these people involved and we will get down there because it looks pretty nice under the snow. Once the skateboarders are involved with this it is going to be amazing. People are going to realize that we are not just a bunch of punks. Thank you.

Don Welch, 147 Boutwell Street, Manchester stated:

Dr. Kassel already alluded to the fact that this particular Board here and the Board that preceded this one, the bills are starting to come in. I think that is evident by way of your process of doing this new budget. The fact of the matter is that I think the people in the City of Manchester should not be taken for fools. Here is a tape. This tape was taped last year. Last night there was another \$1 million that was appropriated by the previous Board in a contingency fund. This tape has the Finance Officer, the financial consultant that this City hired and the attorney for the Manchester Housing & Redevelopment Authority saying that the contingency money would be returned to the City of Manchester and is very seldom used. It is \$1 million. Now I don't know how many more millions you can take from the taxpayers in this City, but it is all about priority. Now this thing has to be built. It is being built. It has to go up. We all realize that. The fact of the matter is that I don't think any one of you are doing justice...all of these people here, these are the people in the City of Manchester. These people should be listened to no matter what their arguments are. What I hear out on the streets is that this Board is out of control. Spending is out of control. Now I don't know how you justify another \$1 million. I will tell you what is happening right here. This project right now in my belief having a little bit of a construction background, is in serious trouble. You know what? Another few months from now when they say that they can't meet their budget, they are coming back to you. When they come back to you, you are coming back to us. I don't care what guarantees you have. Everything on this tape tells a totally different story than what was told here last night. Thank you.

Jean Sutton, Chase Way, Manchester stated:

My concern here tonight is in regard to the proposed Planned Parenthood facility on Penacook Street. The City was lied to right from the beginning. Nothing good is ever built on lies. It is my understanding that the proposed clinic has bulletproof windows and bulletproof walls and I ask the question do the neighbors have bulletproof windows and walls? No, I don't think so. This tells me that they are not going to be doing normal medical procedure. A normal medical procedure helps people to live. Abortion kills. Normal medical procedures save lives. Abortion is a harsh reality and I ask that every one of you here look into your hearts and souls to see exactly what is happening in this City if this is allowed to take place. Abortion is a harsh reality. It is either one of two things. It is a woman's right to chose or it is a dead baby.

Jennifer Pounds, 37 Walnut Hill Road, Goffstown, NH stated:

I wrote a poem addressing abortion.

When we were young, we played together -
 Laugh, smile and run.
 We would swim in the summer
 Play sports in the winter
 We would have all sorts of fun

She danced all day while I played piano
 And then when we were through
 We would sing a song about something sweet
 Like cake, cookies or you

We soon grew up and found part-time jobs
 She was a waitress, I was too
 But we would always find time for each other
 We were friends and always remained true

My friend went to Harvard for eight years
 And then when she was through
 She ran for Governor of NH
 And then was elected too

She solved many problems
 As she spread her wings to fly
 Then one day she opened her heart
 And married a special guy

She was always my friend
 And never left me until the end
 But her end came before her beginning
 Her life was never begun

A newborn she never was
 And her story was left unsung.

I would like to say why should we build a clinic. Who knows? We could be murdering our next Governor, our next President, maybe even your best friend. Why? Why do it?

Reverend J. K. O'Connor, 519 Bridge Street, Manchester stated:

I wish to give my congratulations to those people who have already spoken on the subject of Planned Parenthood. They realize that life is a very precious gift of God. It is something that should be preserved from the moment of conception until the time of natural death. I wish to congratulate also the members of the Zoning Board for the decision that they made some weeks ago not to allow the clinic to be opened on Penacook Street. Abortion is such a dreadful evil that it should never be permitted at any time by any one at any place or for any reason. Along with abortion, another practice that should likewise be avoided is that of contraception, which Planned Parenthood pushes 100%. We should never allow our young people to get the impression that the use of contraceptives for any reason is a morally justified practice. We have already seen enough crime that has been done by both contraception and abortion to be in horror of what will happen in the future. Thank you very much for the privilege of speaking and I hope that you will do your very best not to allow this clinic to occur.

John Murphy, 87 Prospect Street, Manchester stated:

I, too, am here in regards to the Planned Parenthood situation. I, too, want to thank those on the Zoning Board who voted to not allow it to be built based on deception or whatever the reasons are. I suspect that they may be here again in terms of trying to open up another place. There is a thing called judgement. Whether you believe it or not, you will find out. Abortion is that evil when you are taking an innocent life away. I am fortunate to have been preceded by a Holy Priest. I also had the good fortune of meeting Mother Theresa and it is funny how people will listen to certain people speak and others not. The child cannot speak in the womb. I went by just on my way here and I heard a child crying and that cannot happen. The child in the womb can't cry although we can hear the heartbeat. Mother Theresa it is said she would have been involved with the Pro-Life movement if it wasn't for her prior commitment to serving the poorest of the poor in India. She often would come to this country and speak and she would advocate...she would say things such as these children are not unwanted; I want them; give them to me. I will house them, I will feed them, I will be good to them, I will raise them. I encourage you to stay steadfast. Planned Parenthood is a multi-million dollar organization and they have powerful people throughout the country and lawyers, etc. I encourage you to stay steadfast in your decision. Thank you very much.

Billy Dodd, 181 Mammoth Road, Manchester stated:

Blowhards. That is what was in the paper the other week about the people who come here to speak to you people. I think that everyone who comes here to speak is sincere about their subject matter. When I come before this Board, I try to be prepared. In most cases, I am working with the same contracts and MOU's that you have and when I go through them I try to apply a little bit of common sense. Mayor Baines, you talked about

bonding capacity and how to increase it. Use a little common sense. The Police Department wants \$14 million to build a brand new police station. They are telling you what they want. This Board should be telling the Police Department what they are going to get. They are going to get a precinct station somewhere. Spend your money wisely. You don't need \$14 million for a new police station. You need money for a senior center. You need money for more schools. Stop the big business give away. Millions in profits to the management company of the civic center while our revenue projections are questionable? The Chase Block worth millions, but it is going to be sold for \$100,000 and you have already signed a purchase and sales agreement. The cable TV contract. Grace Sullivan, the Director of MCTV, was left out of the negotiations and she is the expert. Franchise fees on the cable bills. Be honest. Tell the taxpayers exactly what that is. It is a tax that is going to generate over \$1 million for the City this year. Lowering the speed limit to 25 MPH. I think that is going to create road rage. Do something creative like an ordinance against blocking intersections, which will reduce driver anxiety. Common sense and the fact that the taxpayer is your boss. That is why I am going to be running for Alderman in Ward 6. Mayor Baines, about five or six weeks ago I was in your office talking to you about snowplowing in the City and I mentioned Hanover Street in front of the Eastgate Plaza. There was only half a lane for a right hand turn. It is still the same way. How many hundreds of thousands of cars do you think have gone down that road in the last six weeks and you still can only see the O and the N of Only. It is still there. Use a little common sense. Spend your money wisely and definitely increase your snowplowing budget.

Barbara Hagan, 154 Winter Street, Manchester stated:

I am here tonight to support the neighbors in the Pennacook Street area who have been put in an extremely critical situation with the respect to the values of their property, the safety of their children, and the sense of serenity of a neighborhood. While all of the other discussion on abortion and abortion rights is important, the City is rising up to tell you tonight that this is not about a woman's right to chose. It is not about abortion per say. What it is about is that there are zoning laws in this City, which protect neighborhoods and what we are concerned about as pro-life citizens, voters, taxpayers of the City of Manchester is that the City attorney will defend those zoning laws and not have a favoritism attitude that we are fearful of because of the city's relationship with the developer who is also the manager and owner of the property. I think it is very important that the zoning laws apply to everyone fairly and equally and I am hopeful that both in the Superior Court level and in the Federal level that the Mayor will instruct the City attorney to defend the City and the zoning laws so that we will not face a situation where the City cannot have faith that the laws do not apply to everyone all of the time. I thank you for your time this evening.

Mayor Baines recessed the special meeting to call the regular meeting to order.

Mayor Baines called the meeting back to order.

Katie Domaingue, 102 Donahue Drive, Manchester stated:

I would just like to come here and I will make this short because if it is any sign from the way you have listened to everyone else who has gotten up here and spoken, half of you won't even be listening to what I am going to say. Get your acts together. Do something. You have a senior center that has been sitting in limbo for months. It will remain in limbo for months because none of you will get your acts together and get a decision made. What about a teen center? What about somewhere for us to go? Where is the \$100,000 that was supposed to be for the skate park and what majority of teenagers will actually participate in a skate park? Why didn't anyone ask us? Why is it that we are continually making decisions about schools without asking the students who attend those schools what is really going on there. You have a police officer now in every school and it has been broadcast as something to be proud of. That is a disgrace. The police officer isn't doing anything because we had another fight break out today at Memorial High School. You have an election coming up in November. You want to make yourselves look good for that election. Get yourselves together. Thank you.

Jessica Pounds, 39 Walnut Hill Road, Goffstown, NH stated:

I am here to speak tonight about the Planned Parenthood Clinic and I wrote an essay about abortion and it took a lot of time and I put a lot of effort into it so I hope you will enjoy what I have to say. Joy beyond words. Love. Heartfelt happiness. It saddens me to think that some people chose never to experience these wonderful things.

Unfortunately, some people chose a severely painful method to get rid of a so-called burden because they didn't want their friends to know or because they didn't have enough money. The sad truth is that when women have had an abortion, almost every single woman who has had one walks away with strong regrets and deep sadness. Their tiny little joy was sucked down a vacuum and scraped out of the womb. As you hear me speak, many people have died. Some in a war, some in a car accident, some because of an illness and many because of abortion. Another life is gone. Another couple walks away depressed because they did not have a baby to adopt. Who knows? The future President of the U.S. may have just been disintegrated in the supposedly safest place to live. So often, tears roll down my cheeks thinking that 1/3 of our generation was swept away because of abortion and so many of you don't seem to care. My heart is heavy and my soul is tired. Tired of the pro-choice laws clouding people's influence. Can you honestly tell me that a tiny little soul reached out of the womb to grab a doctor's hand was but a blob of tissue? The facts are plain and simple. Another life has just been taken

away and another couple is crying at their loss. Tonight I came here to bring you the truth and the truth is that God loves you. He gave you life. Keep this gift.

Clare Girard, 26 Tipping Rock Road, Goffstown, NH stated:

I attend Holy Family Academy which is located in Manchester. I have come here to speak against the abortion clinic in Manchester. Don't be afraid to speak out. Those people lie saying that abortion is not murder. They said that the abortionists were general practitioners. They are murderers. There is no denying that. When someone takes another human life, we call that murder. I am glad my parents chose life. These are gifts that everyone has gotten except those people who are still within their mother's womb. Shouldn't they be protected too? They are the people that we must protect. The helpless. Why don't they get a voice? We must speak for them. Life is the most precious gift we have. Can't everybody have it? You cannot take a girl to a hospital without asking her parents first to have stitches or something, but you can take her to an abortion clinic to have the soul within her killed, murdered? It is not right. This is a picture of Samuel and he was still within the womb when the doctor did a medical procedure on him to fix a disorder that he had before he was born. At this age, many babies are murdered through abortion legally. He is holding the doctor's hand. You cannot say that he is not alive. He is. Thank you.

Ken Scarpetti, 16 Sagamore Street, Manchester stated:

I have been involved in the whole thing as far as the Planned Parenthood and I know some of the neighbors who were notified as far as the variance and it was explained to them by the engineer directly that it was just a general practitioners office so they stayed away from the meeting and when they were asked directly at the meeting, the engineer again said it was just a general practitioner's office. I just feel that Planned Parenthood had set-up the engineers to let them know and to prepare them to not come out and say that it was Planned Parenthood directly because they knew that it would cause controversy. We all know how controversial the whole issue is in the country and they would not be granted the variance because it would directly affect property values and it would definitely never get past the variance board. I feel that the Board was misled that way and I feel that the City attorney should fight it. I feel that this is going to directly affect the neighborhood. It is a residential neighborhood. There will be picketing. There will be controversy. We know that there is bulletproof glass in the building. It is not right the way it was done and I just feel that the building is going to be protected and the rest of us are not. I made a huge investment in my building and it is going to change the whole neighborhood because of that building. I would ask that you guys push to have the attorney follow-up.

Sarah Girard, 26 Tipping Rock Road, Goffstown, NH stated:

I am 12 years old and I go to St. Casmir School. The killing of an infant child is a horrible thing. Every child has the right to live. You might say that the baby is not alive if it has not been born yet, but it is. The baby is alive the first moment that it begins to grow in its mother's womb. This all ties into the Golden Rule. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. Think of your mother. She wanted you. She did not want to have an abortion. Put yourself in the position of all of the innocent, helpless babies who are being killed. You just might not be here today. What is right with abortion? Nothing. People all over the world would love to have a child and cannot and so many parents still chose to kill their children. The following is a quote from Mother Theresa, "Do not kill the children. We will take care of them. We cannot stop wars until we fight abortion." Planned Parenthood does not respect life so please think of all the things I said and do not let an abortion clinic be built here in Manchester. Thank you.

Alderman Levasseur stated I would like to ask a question.

Mayor Baines replied this is a special meeting and I will not allow any questions.

Alderman Levasseur stated well I would like an explanation from these people because they are all in the room.

Mayor Baines replied no. This is a public forum.

Nina Armato, Manchester stated:

I am totally opposed to Planned Parenthood and in particular its locating in the City of Manchester. Planned Parenthood is the largest abortion provider in the nation. The major news media attempts to hide this evil business. However, the *Washington Times* reported that a San Francisco jury recently ordered Planned Parenthood to pay \$672,000 to a woman for damage she suffered from a botched abortion of her twins. One twin was aborted and six weeks later after the woman suffered severe abdominal pain and morning sickness, a follow-up exam revealed a twin that was missing an arm and a leg. The woman subsequently underwent a late term abortion of the other twin. The woman's testimony was so horrifying that three jurors later said they wanted to give the woman over \$1 million. We don't want a holocaust of the unborn in the City of Manchester. Pope John Paul II has stated, "A nation that kills its own children is a nation without hope." Some people may balk at the Holy Father's words now but should God chose to strike our City with his just chastisement, it will likely strike not only the scoffers but those who claim to be Christian and people of God who chose to do nothing to stop the holocaust of unborn babies.

Jefferey Sullivan 64 Edward Street, Manchester stated:

I would like to speak on the Planned Parenthood issue. I just want to keep this real brief. I feel that you should hear the other side of the story from a couple of outside sources on my own opinion. I believe that Planned Parenthood does have a place in the City of Manchester. I just do not believe it has a place for where it was to be located. The residential neighborhood of Penacook Street should remain residential as it was before Planned Parenthood wanted to go in. I believe that Planned Parenthood has a right on a strictly commercial zoning area such as South Willow Street or Elm Street frontage, not in a residential neighborhood.

There being no one else present wishing to speak, on motion of Alderman Cashin, duly seconded by Alderman Pariseau, it was voted to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any written documentation presented.

There being no further business to come before the special meeting, on motion of Alderman Cashin, duly seconded by Alderman Pariseau, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk